



Town of Natick Board of Health
Natick 180 Steering Committee Meeting
8:30 AM Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Minutes

MEMBERS and DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Steven Baroletti, MetroWest Medical Center
Don Breda, Natick Board of Health
Astrid Dretler, Natick 180 / Natick Health Department
Fr. Joseph J. Gallick, Natick Interfaith Clergy Association
Christine Guthery, SPARK Kindness
Chief James Hicks, Natick Police Department
Saralyn Keller, First Congregational Church
Chief Michael Lentini, Natick Fire Department
Nina Levine, Natick 180 / Natick Health Department
Nick Loscocco, Recovery Community
Cheryle Lucenta, SOAR Natick
Dr. Anna Nolin, Natick Public Schools
Lt. Cara Rossi, Natick Police Department
Paul Joseph, Select Board
Katie Sugarman, Natick 180 / Natick Health Department
James M. White, Jr., Natick Health Department

MEMBERS of the Public PRESENT:

Michael Boudreau, Natick Health Department
Deborah Chaulk, Natick Health Department
Henry Schwann, Reporter for MetroWest Daily News
Caeli Tegan, Natick Health Department

1. Citizens' Concerns: Any individual may raise an issue that is not included on the agenda and it will be taken under advisement by the Committee. There will be no opportunity for debate during this portion of the meeting. Any individual addressing the Committee during this section of the agenda shall be limited to two minutes.

None

2. Vote on meeting minutes

- a. Steering Committee meeting minutes: May 5, 2021

The meeting minutes from May 5th, 2021 were approved.

- b. Full Coalition meeting minutes: December 17, 2020 and March 9, 2021

The meeting minutes from December 17th and March 9 were approved.

3. Announcements

The next full quarterly Coalition meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8th.

Ms. Sugarman announced that the Coalition designed banners displaying messages around mental health and they are displayed around town. The message says “You Matter. We Care.” and includes mental health resources. The Police Department distributed flyers to local businesses that had that message displayed in 5 languages including English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Russian.

Ms. Sugarman announced that she and Ms. Dretler have conducted several first round interviews to fill Ms. Levine’s position as Associate Project Coordinator for the Drug Free Communities grant. Ms. Lucenta and Lt. Rossi have volunteered to assist with the second round of interviews. The goal is to wrap up the first round of interviews by the end of this week.

4. Confirm June Coalition meeting details

a. Meeting agenda

The meeting will be virtually on June 8th from 6:30-8:00pm. The hope was to have Human In Common present at the Coalition meeting, but there have been some scheduling conflicts. The Coalition will have them present at a future meeting. Ms. Sugarman recommended that the full Coalition meeting agenda could include a guided discussion about what the priorities are for Coalition members for the next school year. Mr. Joseph mentioned there should be a focus on long-term sustainable funding. If there are any other suggestions, please email Ms. Sugarman.

b. Community Champion Award nominations

There have been several nominations for the Community Champion award this year. There were a few people on the Steering Committee who were nominated. Last year, Steering Committee members were emailed individually and followed up with Ms. Sugarman to place their votes. The Steering Committee agreed on this procedure for this year. Ms. Sugarman will send voting emails out today.

5. Report from Human in Common consultants regarding local key stakeholder interviews

This item was not discussed and will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

6. Local and statewide policy updates

Ms. Sugarman wondered if there should be an action team that is focused on policy guidance. Ms. Sugarman has received an influx of new legislation or new information that is happening on Beacon Hill. The Coalition needs to be careful not to lobby and continue to be in compliance with the grant regulations. Below are some of the items that Ms. Sugarman has received communications on:

- Now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted, there have been some conversations about the language in last year’s order that allowed restaurants to serve “cocktails to-go.” There are a lot of strong feelings in the alcohol industry of whether that is

- appropriate to keep.
- Representative Hill of Ipswich is working with parents on regulating high potency THC products and also putting forth some awareness and education on the issue.
- There are some national efforts to ban menthol products. Massachusetts was the first state to ban menthol products. There is a lot of documentation that Big Tobacco has targeted communities of Color. The Coalition has received documentation on a number of different advocacy groups around this issue.

Mr. Loscocco and Ms. Keller expressed interest in participating in that sub-committee.

7. Town department reports

a. Natick Police and Fire Departments

Lt. Rossi reported that there was 1 heroin/fentanyl overdose death on May 15th in a private residence. Second non-fatal overdose happened on May 24th. The person was 21 years old. For this overdose, there was no loss of consciousness but there was transport to the hospital. The substance was self-reported as ketamine. This person is on the POST Overdose Outreach Team's list to follow-up with. Mr. Loscocco would be open to talking to that particular individual and will communicate with Lt. Rossi.

Lt. Rossi reported that there have been 4 fatal overdoses this year thus far. In 2020, there were 4 fatal overdoses total. There was 1 overdose that was not included because that particular case has not been tracked historically.

b. Natick Public Schools

Dr. Nolin reported that Principal Harrigan has served on a state-wide anti-vaping curriculum leadership team. They have developed a new comprehensive guide for districts about how to combat vaping. Ms. Sugarman will send the guide to the Steering Committee.

c. Natick Health Department

The Health Department is re-evaluating their work after the executive COVID orders have been lifted.

Mr. White reported that the recertification for Narcan distribution has been a bit delayed. We are unable to order Narcan until that is reapproval.

d. Natick Select Board

There were no updates from Mr. Joseph on the Select Board.

8. Community reports

a. MetroWest Medical Center

There were no updates from Mr. Baroletti.

b. SOAR Natick

Ms. Lucenta mentioned that SOAR is seeking more referrals for their grant program as they still have funding available. The funding can assist individuals in advancing their recovery. The funds can also assist families, for example, with funds related to the death of a loved one. Those requests for grants need to be supported by someone who works with them on their recovery. The priority is for Natick residents, but within the state and particularly MetroWest applicants would be reviewed.

June 2nd is Class Night and SOAR will be awarding \$1000 to 3 seniors at Natick High School.

SOAR Natick will be fundraising as part of the Boston Marathon in Fall 2021.

c. SPARK Kindness

Last week was the final program of the school year for SPARK Kindness. SPARK Kindness is looking forward to continuing to work with Natick 180 in designing a program series for next year that responds to the needs of the community. Some of the themes that SPARK would like to focus on include emotional health and wellbeing, pandemic recovery, teenagers and their parents, racial justice, and kindness, civility and non-violent communication. One thing that SPARK is seeing is that with challenging times and difficult situations, people have a tendency to get polarized.

The first program that is planned is with Janine Halloran, a psychologist that specializes in coping strategies for youngest people and up. Her program will help families and individuals identify and develop coping strategies. Ms. Guthery reported that SPARK is thinking about virtual programming for the fall. Ms. Guthery reported that there has been a lot of feedback about the accessibility of virtual programming. There will likely be some aspects of hybrid programming.

d. Natick Interfaith Clergy Association

Ms. Keller reported that the First Congregational Church will host an art installation with the new Natick's artist in residence, Amy Adams. It is going to represent a person in crisis and a person that is caring for them. It will touch on mental health and addiction and all the ways it has impacted our community. There will be a plaque with QR codes including Natick 180's website.

e. Recovery community

Mr. Loscocco reported that in-person recovery meetings in the MetroWest region have been slower to return. Mr. Loscocco is continuing to look for space. Mr. Joseph mentioned that there may be some local businesses that may be interested in helping out. Ms. Sugarman and Mr. Loscocco will work together on a bulleted list of what is needed for a facility and send it to Mr. Joseph.

9. Updates on Natick Marijuana Establishments licensing process

Mr. Joseph reported that all the 4 outstanding marijuana license applicants will be called in for a comprehensive presentation to the Select Board. The intention was to have the Select Board members to hear all the information at the same time. Mr. Joseph welcomed Natick

180 to put together questions that they would like the Select Board to ask of these applicants.

Chief Hicks reported that the state did approve its first marijuana delivery. There has been some communication about what the process will look like moving forward and would be worth the Coalition discussing. Ms. Sugarman will put on list of agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Keller wondered about how young people are protected in the marijuana home delivery process. Chief Hicks reported that this was an issue among legislators as well. The other issue was who can the products be delivered to. The Coalition will expand on this conversation at the next meeting.

10. Coalition operations

a. Steering membership and officer elections

The Coalition is trying to recruit new members to the group and one question that came up was whether it made sense to hold new leadership elections before we bring in more representation from the community. The Coalition has 2 at-large positions for the Coalition and those “job descriptions” have been sent to the Human In Common consultants to review. The intention is to increase representation in the Coalition and make sure that Black, Indigenous, People of Color feel welcomed to join. The Steering Committee agreed that waiting to hold the officer elections made sense. Mr. White and Ms. Lucenta agreed to be in their roles until the conversations continue.

Ms. Sugarman will work on drafting the “job descriptions” of the chair and vice-chair and include that they should be part of the Coalition for 1-2 years. Mr. Joseph wondered if there should be an interim/acting role to help bridge and give relief to current leadership. The Steering Committee will discuss further at the next meeting.

b. Diversity, equity and inclusion grant: Update on April trainings and next steps

Ms. Sugarman sent an email with October training dates to continue the “Interrupting Racism” series with Human In Common. The final training will be held in November and Ms. Sugarman will email those date options.

c. Finance update

See slides.

Ms. Sugarman mentioned that the contract with the INTERFACE Referral service has increased significantly and the schools and Health Department are going to share the cost of that service.

The legislative Earmark came through and the list of potential projects can be seen on the slides.

Ms. Sugarman mentioned that some of the Earmark funds will be used for the Town-wide mailer.

d. Bylaws update

Ms. Sugarman will put this at the beginning of the agenda for July. Mr. Hicks had some edits to the bylaws.

11. Action Team Updates

There were no updates from the Action Teams.

12. Set next meeting date/time and adjourn

The next meeting is July 14th from 8:30am-10am. The Human In Common consultants will present at that meeting.